

<h2>CHAPTER 46</h2> <h3>CHINS Timeliness Measures</h3> <h4>Administrative Rule 1(F)</h4>	<p>CONTACT: <b>Elana Salzman</b> <a href="mailto:elana.salzman@courts.gov">elana.salzman@courts.gov</a> Direct: 317-233-3017 30 S. Meridian St., Suite 500 Indianapolis, IN 46204 Fax: 317-233-6586</p>
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The CHINS Timeliness Measures were established by Administrative Rule 1(F) in order to track and measure court performance in CHINS cases. The performance measures are based on the guidelines of the federal Court Improvement Program and are part of the requirements of that program. They also provide an opportunity for courts to check their own performance and timeliness in CHINS cases.

Effective July 1, 2014, every court with CHINS jurisdiction is required to quarterly report on the five timeliness measures. The five measures are calculated by a spreadsheet form that is posted on the Court Improvement Program's website along with accompanying instructions: <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/cip/2653.htm>. They may also be reported by entering the data into INcite. Some of the data entry may be automated depending on the case management system and the age of the case.

The Timeliness Measures forms are filled out only for those Child in Need of Services (CHINS) cases that **opened** on or after October 1, in the year five years prior to the start of the current year, and **closed** (the CHINS wardship was terminated) within the current federal fiscal year (October 1 – September 30). Reports are due January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10 of each year.

Cases are only included if there was a finding that the child is a CHINS either through voluntary agreement or through trial. CHINS petitions filed that were dismissed or discharged prior to CHINS adjudication are excluded. Informal adjustments that did not lead to a CHINS adjudication are also excluded.

The five timeliness measures are:

1. Time to permanent placement—this measures the time from the filing of the CHINS petition until the CHINS wardship is terminated, i.e. there is no longer an open CHINS case. This measure includes permanency types. There are five permanency types:
  - a. Adoption: The child was adopted.
  - b. Reunification: The child was reunified with either the custodial or the noncustodial parent.
  - c. Relative placement: The child was placed with a relative.
  - d. Guardianship: The child was placed with a legal guardian.
  - e. Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement: The child was placed in another permanent living arrangement, such as a group home placement.

2. Time to first permanency hearing—this measures the time from the filing of the CHINS petition until the first permanency hearing. For the purpose of these measurements, permanency hearings must be calendared as such and must meet all the requirements of IC 31-34-21-7. This includes but is not limited to the requirement that a permanency plan be filed, that parties have notice that the hearing is a permanency hearing and a copy of the permanency plan in advance, and that permanency findings must be made.
3. Time to termination of parental rights petition—this measures the time from the filing of the CHINS petition until the filing of the termination of parental rights petition. Mandatory petitions filed under IC 31-35-2-4 and 31-35-2-4.5 which are immediately dismissed should not be included.
4. Time to termination of parental rights—this measures the time from the filing of the CHINS petition until the order terminating parental rights.
5. Time to all subsequent permanency hearings—this measures the time between permanency hearings.